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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,859	03/26/2004	Isamu Ohshita	107156-00232	7595

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EXAMINER

WALFORD, NATALIE K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2879

DATE MAILED: 08/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/809,859

Applicant(s)

OHSHITA ET AL.

Examiner

Natalie K. Walford

Art Unit

2879

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8-12, 15, and 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8-12, 15 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The Amendment, filed on June 9, 2006, has been entered and acknowledged by the Examiner.

Cancellation of claims 6, 13-14, and 16 has been entered.

Claims 1-5, 8-12, 15, and 17 are pending in the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 8-12, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. (US 6,965,195) in view of Ozolins et al. (US 6,919,678) in further view of Matthies et al. (US 6,476,783).

Regarding claim 1, Yamazaki discloses an organic EL display panel in figure 3, which emits light from a substrate (item 301) including a cover (item 307), which has a transparency (column 5, lines 15-23) and is provided for enclosing organic EL device(s) (item 304), formed on the substrate having a transparency (column 4, lines 44-48), but does not expressly disclose that in that at least non-luminescent areas of the cover of the organic EL display panel are provided with transmission vision preventing means and that the transmission vision preventing means are formed by a colored adhesive agent, as claimed by Applicant.

Ozolins is cited to show an electric display in figure 4 with a cover (item 200). The cover has two portions (items 210 and 220), wherein in one portion light is emitted thru (item 210) and in the other portion (item 220); light cannot be transmitted thru (column 5, line 53 thru column 6, line 18). Since Ozolins is disclosing an electric display and an organic EL display panel is a type of electric display, the cover could be used by Yamazaki. Ozolins teaches that providing two portions on the cover with optical properties such as tinting, coloring, or coating allow a uniform appearance on the image displaying portion (column 6, lines 7-18). Matthies is cited to show a display device in figures 1 or 2, where if the display device is formed in two sections (i.e. substrate and cover), a dark-colored adhesive can be used to join the two sections (column 4, lines 60-66). Matthies teaches that if the adhesive is dark-colored, it can absorb ambient light which is transmitted through the display section (column 1, lines 66 thru column 2, lines 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Yamazaki's invention to include that in that at least non-luminescent areas of the cover of the organic EL display panel are provided with transmission vision preventing means and that the transmission vision preventing means are formed by a colored adhesive agent as suggested by Ozolins and Matthies for having a uniform appearance on the image displaying portion of the device and for absorbing ambient light that is transmitted through the display section.

Regarding claim 2, the combined reference of Yamazaki, Ozolins, and Matthies disclose the organic EL display panel according to claim 1, wherein the transmission vision preventing means is formed by coloring at least relevant portions of the cover corresponding to said non-luminescent areas (Ozolins; column 6, lines 7-18).

Regarding claim 3, the combined reference of Yamazaki, Ozolins, and Matthies disclose the organic EL display panel according to claim 1, wherein the transmission vision preventing means is formed by providing a colored layer on the cover's one surface located away from the substrate (Yamazaki; FIG. 3, item 309).

Regarding claim 4, the combined reference of Yamazaki, Ozolins, and Matthies disclose the organic EL display panel according to claim 1, wherein the transmission vision preventing means is formed by attaching a colored sheet to the backside of the cover, located at least in relevant portions corresponding to said non-luminescent areas (Yamazaki; FIG. 3, item 309 and Ozolins; FIG. 3, items 200, 210, and 220).

Regarding claim 5, the combined reference of Yamazaki, Ozolins, and Matthies disclose the organic EL display panel according to claim 1, wherein the transmission vision preventing means is a frame structure, at least relevant portions of which are colored, said relevant portions being close to the cover and corresponding to said non-luminescent areas (Yamazaki; FIG. 3, item 310 and Ozolins; FIG. 3, items 200, 210, and 220).

Regarding claim 8, Yamazaki discloses a method of manufacturing an organic EL display panel in figure 3, which emits light from a substrate (item 301) including a cover (item 307) which has a transparency (column 5, lines 15-23) and is provided for enclosing organic EL device(s) (item 304) formed on the substrate having a transparency (column 4, lines 44-48), but does not expressly disclose that the method involves a step of forming transmission vision preventing means in at least non-luminescent areas of the cover of the organic EL display panel and that the transmission vision preventing means are formed by a colored adhesive agent, as claimed by Applicant.

Ozolins is cited to show an electric display in figure 4 with a cover (item 200). The cover has two portions (items 210 and 220), wherein in one portion light is emitted thru (item 210) and in the other portion (item 220); light cannot be transmitted thru (column 5, line 53 thru column 6, line 18). Since Ozolins is disclosing an electric display and an organic EL display panel is a type of electric display, the cover could be used by Yamazaki. Ozolins teaches that providing two portions on the cover with optical properties such as tinting, coloring, or coating allow a uniform appearance on the image displaying portion (column 6, lines 7-18). Matthies is cited to show a display device in figures 1 or 2, where if the display device is formed in two sections (i.e. substrate and cover), a dark-colored adhesive can be used to join the two sections (column 4, lines 60-66). Matthies teaches that if the adhesive is dark-colored, it can absorb ambient light which is transmitted through the display section (column 1, lines 66 thru column 2, lines 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Yamazaki's invention to include that the method involves a step of forming transmission vision preventing means in at least non-luminescent areas of the cover of the organic EL display panel and that the transmission vision preventing means are formed by a colored adhesive agent as suggested by Ozolins and Matthies for having a uniform appearance on the image displaying portion of the device and for absorbing ambient light that is transmitted through the display section.

Regarding claim 9, the combined reference of Yamazaki, Ozolins, and Matthies disclose the method according to claim 8, wherein the transmission vision preventing means is formed by coloring at least relevant portions of the cover corresponding to said non-luminescent areas (Ozolins; column 6, lines 7-18).

Regarding claim 10, the combined reference of Yamazaki, Ozolins, and Matthies disclose the method according to claim 8, wherein the transmission vision preventing means is formed by providing a colored layer on the cover's one surface located away from the substrate (Yamazaki; FIG. 3, item 309).

Regarding claim 11, the combined reference of Yamazaki, Ozolins, and Matthies disclose the method according to claim 8, wherein the transmission vision preventing means is formed by attaching a colored sheet to the backside of the cover, located at least in relevant portions corresponding to said non-luminescent areas (Yamazaki; FIG. 3, item 309 and Ozolins; FIG. 3, items 200, 210, and 220).

Regarding claim 12, the combined reference of Yamazaki, Ozolins, and Matthies disclose the method according to claim 8, wherein the transmission vision preventing means is a frame structure, at least relevant portions of which are colored, said relevant portions being close to the cover and corresponding to said non-luminescent areas (Yamazaki; FIG. 3, item 310 and Ozolins; FIG. 3, items 200, 210, and 220).

Regarding claim 15, Yamazaki discloses an organic EL display panel in figure 5, which emits light from a cover (item 507), including the cover, which has a transparency (column 5, lines 15-23) and is provided for enclosing organic EL device(s) (item 504), formed on a substrate (item 501) having a transparency (column 6, lines 35-37), but does not expressly disclose that in at least non-luminescent areas of the substrate of the organic EL display panel are provided with transmission vision preventing means and that the transmission vision preventing means are formed by a colored adhesive agent, as claimed by Applicant.

Ozolins is cited to show an electric display in figure 4 with a cover (item 200). The cover has two portions (items 210 and 220), wherein in one portion light is emitted thru (item 210) and in the other portion (item 220); light cannot be transmitted thru (column 5, line 53 thru column 6, line 18). Since Ozolins is disclosing an electric display and an organic EL display panel is a type of electric display, the cover could be used by Yamazaki. Ozolins teaches that providing two portions on the cover with optical properties such as tinting, coloring, or coating allow a uniform appearance on the image displaying portion (column 6, lines 7-18). The Examiner notes that even though item 200 is a cover, Ozolins discloses that it a glass or plastic sheet (column 6, lines 5-6), that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the cover act as a substrate also, since the Examiner notes that the equivalence of a cover and a substrate are being used to emit light thru and are made of similar materials. The selection of having the cover as the substrate would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art for having non-luminescent areas on the substrate as well as the cover. Matthies is cited to show a display device in figures 1 or 2, where if the display device is formed in two sections (i.e. substrate and cover), a dark-colored adhesive can be used to join the two sections (column 4, lines 60-66). Matthies teaches that if the adhesive is dark-colored, it can absorb ambient light which is transmitted through the display section (column 1, lines 66 thru column 2, lines 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Yamazaki's invention to include that that in at least non-luminescent areas of the substrate of the organic EL display panel are provided with transmission vision preventing means and that the transmission vision preventing means are formed by a colored

adhesive agent as suggested by Ozolins and Matthies for having a uniform appearance on the image displaying portion of the device and for absorbing ambient light that is transmitted through the display section.

Regarding claim 17, Yamazaki discloses a method of manufacturing an organic EL display panel in figure 5, which emits light from a cover (item 507), including the cover which has a transparency (column 5, lines 15-23) and is provided for enclosing organic EL device(s) (item 504) formed on a substrate (item 501) having a transparency (column 6, lines 35-37), but does not expressly disclose that the method involves a step of forming transmission vision preventing means in at least non-luminescent areas of the substrate of the organic EL display panel, as claimed by Applicant.

Ozolins is cited to show an electric display in figure 4 with a cover (item 200). The cover has two portions (items 210 and 220), wherein in one portion light is emitted thru (item 210) and in the other portion (item 220); light cannot be transmitted thru (column 5, line 53 thru column 6, line 18). Since Ozolins is disclosing an electric display and an organic EL display panel is a type of electric display, the cover could be used by Yamazaki. Ozolins teaches that providing two portions on the cover with optical properties such as tinting, coloring, or coating allow a uniform appearance on the image displaying portion (column 6, lines 7-18). The Examiner notes that even though item 200 is a cover, Ozolins discloses that it a glass or plastic sheet (column 6, lines 5-6), that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the cover act as a substrate also, since the Examiner notes that the equivalence of a cover and a substrate are being used to emit light thru and are made of similar materials. The selection of having the cover as the substrate would be within the level of

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ordinary skill in the art for having non-luminescent areas on the substrate as well as the cover.

Matthies is cited to show a display device in figures 1 or 2, where if the display device is formed in two sections (i.e. substrate and cover), a dark-colored adhesive can be used to join the two sections (column 4, lines 60-66). Matthies teaches that if the adhesive is dark-colored, it can absorb ambient light which is transmitted through the display section (column 1, lines 66 thru column 2, lines 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Yamazaki's invention to include that the method involves a step of forming transmission vision preventing means in at least non-luminescent areas of the substrate of the organic EL display panel and that the transmission vision preventing means are formed by a colored adhesive agent as suggested by Ozolins and Matthies for having a uniform appearance on the image displaying portion of the device and for absorbing ambient light that is transmitted through the display section.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, and 8-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalie K. Walford whose telephone number is (571)-272-6012. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (571)-272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

nkW


8/11/06

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